

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-17, 22-23, 39-45 and 49-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0004844 A1 to Harari et al. and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0022453 to Balog et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/091736 to Wall. The Examiner indicated that claim 55 is allowed and that claims 18-21 and 27-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claim 55. Applicants have re-written claims 18, 27 and 34 in independent form per the Examiner's instructions and have made other modifications to claim 18 to put it into proper form. Claims 19-21, 28-33 and 35 have not be re-written as they depend from claims 18, 27 and 34, respectively, which have been re-written in independent form. Claims 1-10, 12-17, 22, 23, 39-45 and 47-54 have been cancelled without prejudice to expedite the allowance of this application. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue these cancelled claim in a continuation application.

As a result, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicants have described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, applicants assert that it is the combination of elements recited in each of the claims, when each claim is interpreted as

a whole, which is patentable. Applicants have emphasized certain features in the claims as clearly not present in the cited references, as discussed above. However, applicants do not concede that other features in the claims are found in the prior art. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, applicants has provides examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

Applicants wish to clarify for the record, if necessary, that the claims have been amended to expedite prosecution. Moreover, applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter recited in the present claims in a continuation application.

Any narrowing amendments made to the claims in the present response is not to be construed as a surrender of any subject matter between the original claims and the present claims; rather merely applicants' best attempt at providing one or more definitions of what the applicant believes to be suitable patent protection. In addition, the present claims provide the intended scope of protection that applicant is seeking for this application. Therefore, no estoppel should be presumed, and applicants' claims are intended to include a scope of protection under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

For all the reasons advanced above, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. For all the reasons advanced above, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and that such action is earnestly solicited.

Authorization

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Reply, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Director is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilmer Cutler Pickering
Hale and Dorr LLP

Date: November 16, 2005


Victor F. Souto
Registration No. 33,458
Attorney for Applicant

Wilmer Cutler Pickering
Hale and Dorr LLP
Customer No. 28089
399 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Tel: 212-230-8800
Fax: 212-230-8888